



HUNDREDS OF POLICE CHIEFS,  
SHERIFFS, PROSECUTORS, OTHER LAW  
ENFORCEMENT LEADERS, AND  
VIOLENCE SURVIVORS PREVENTING  
CRIME AND VIOLENCE

**Executive Board  
2013-2014**

**Co-Chairs**

Wayne Kangas, Clinton County  
Sheriff  
Brian Mackie, Washtenaw  
County Prosecutor  
Catherine Garcia-Lindstrom,  
Walker Director of Public Safety  
Kathy Cole, Crime Survivor

**Legislative**

Kurt Asbury, Bay County Prosecutor  
Dwain Dennis, Ionia County  
Sheriff (ret.)  
Ed Edmondson, Wyoming Police  
Chief (ret.)  
Jackie Hampton, Battle Creek  
Police Chief  
Jeriel Heard, Wayne County  
Sheriff's Dept, Jail Admin.  
Chuck Heit, Undersheriff,  
Berrien County  
Peter M. Jaklevic, Mecosta  
County Prosecutor  
Brian McLean, Houghton County  
Sheriff  
Lawrence Richardson,  
Lenawee County Sheriff (ret.)  
Dean Roesler, Muskegon  
County Sheriff  
Michael D. Thomas, Genesee  
County Prosecutor's Office

**Public Education/Relations**

Bob Bauer, Portland Police Chief  
James Carmody, Wyoming  
Police Chief  
Col. Kriste Elue, Director,  
Michigan State Police  
Kay Hoffman, Lansing Twp.  
Police Chief  
Byron Konschuh, Lapeer  
County Prosecutor  
Rachel Sadowski, Hopkins Police  
Chief  
Bill Scheutte, Attorney General,  
State of Michigan  
Martin Underhill, Grand Ledge  
Police Chief  
Joseph Underwood, Cass  
County Sheriff  
Gene Wriggelsworth, Ingham  
County Sheriff

**Membership**

Milton Abraham Agay, Berrien Springs  
Oronoko Twp. Police Chief  
James Crawford, Oshtemo  
County Sheriff  
Stuart Dunning, III, Ingham  
County Prosecutor  
Steven J. Kieleszewski, Alpena  
County Sheriff  
Charles H. Koop, Antrim  
County Prosecutor  
Doreen Oiko, Auburn Hills  
Police Chief  
Richard Steiger, Presque Isle  
County Prosecutor  
Randall Stevenson, Roscommon  
County Sheriff  
Kym Worthy, Wayne County  
Prosecutor

**Development**

Timothy Bourgeois, Kalamazoo  
Twp. Police Chief  
Robert A. Cooney, Grand Traverse  
County Prosecutor  
Brian Peppler, Chippewa  
County Prosecutor

**Fight Crime: Invest in Kids National  
Leadership Council**

Milton L. Scates, Chief (ret.)  
Gary Walker, Marquette County  
Prosecutor (ret.)

**Executive Staff**

Kathy "K.P." Pelleran, State Director  
Donna Aberlich, Deputy Director

July 31, 2013

Honorable Randy Richardville, Chairman  
Government Operations Committee  
Michigan Senate  
State Capitol  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Majority Leader Richardville:

As you address Medicaid in Government Operations, we urge you to support using federal funds to increase the health coverage of Michigan's low-income, uninsured citizens through Medicaid. Extending Medicaid to 133 percent of Federal Poverty Level can reduce future health, social welfare, and corrections expenditures resulting from child abuse and neglect, fetal alcohol exposure, and troubled children and youth.

The more than 500 law enforcement leaders who are members of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *Michigan*, together with more than 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, and prosecutors nationwide, know from the front lines against crime—and from the research—that high-quality investments in at-risk kids are among the most powerful weapons we have against crime. We know that increased access among parents and children to proven mental health and behavioral health treatments, including substance abuse treatment, will cut future crime and violence.

**Increasing Parent Coverage Also Increases Chances of Their Children's Coverage**

Research reveals that parents without insurance are three times more likely to have uninsured children. In Michigan, almost 250,000 poor women will become eligible for insurance under Medicaid extension, and there are more than 25,000 Michigan children not yet enrolled who are more likely to get coverage when their parents become enrolled. When parents and children gain access to mental and behavioral treatment programs, including treatment for substance abuse, future criminality and associated societal costs – both human and economic – can be averted.

**Parent Coverage Can Help Reduce Child Abuse and Neglect and Later Crime**

Parents enrolled in Medicaid can receive mental and behavioral health treatment, including treatment for substance abuse disorders. This can help to reduce child abuse or neglect and related fatalities. One-third to two-thirds of child abuse or neglect cases involve a parent with a substance abuse problem. Parental substance abuse is associated with the most severe child maltreatment outcomes, including placement in foster care and fatalities. In many cases, parental substance abuse is associated with mental illness and mothers' depression has also been linked to child abuse and neglect. There were more than 33,000 confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect in Michigan in 2011, and 75 children died as a result. Among survivors of child abuse and neglect, the scars can have lasting effects; in one research study, being abused or neglected almost doubled the odds that a child would commit a crime

July 31, 2013  
Page 2

as a juvenile, compared to youth from similar backgrounds and neighborhoods. Access to mental and behavioral health treatment, including treatment for substance abuse, through Medicaid extension can help parents and improve results for children and public safety.

### **Pregnant Women's Access to Treatment Can Reduce Fetal Alcohol Exposure and Later Crime**

If all low-income women of child-bearing age have health coverage, this will make it more likely, for example, that they will get screened, and receive counseling and treatment for alcohol abuse *before* they become pregnant, not weeks or months afterwards. This is important because the harmful effects of fetal alcohol exposure – even before a woman knows she is pregnant – can be long-lasting. Those who suffer from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome are more likely to be arrested and incarcerated. One often-cited study of adolescents and adults with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Fetal Alcohol Effects found that 87 percent of adults had been arrested, charged and convicted of at least one crime, and 35 percent of adolescents and adults had been incarcerated. Health insurance helps make counseling on alcohol consumption and pregnancy, and effective alcohol abuse treatment more likely for women of child-bearing age. That counseling and treatment can help reduce Fetal Alcohol exposure and later crime.

### **Troubled Youth Access to Treatment Can Reduce Crime**

Children and youth with aggression or substance abuse problems need help, and children who are signed up for Medicaid can receive periodic screening for health problems and any needed treatments. Rigorous randomized trials show that proven medical treatments can deliver significant and meaningful help. For example, one study of Multisystemic Therapy followed the treated youth for 22 years and found that violent felonies were reduced by 72 percent, saving an average of \$25 thousand per youth served.

### **Untreated Mental Health Problems and Substance Abuse Lead to Crime**

Often, county jails are the largest mental and behavioral health institutions in any jurisdiction. Jails have seen increased costs due to the increased expenses and related liabilities associated with the mental illness and substance abuse problems of individuals who now regularly pass through their doors. When an individual has a mental illness plus alcohol and drug use disorders, their odds of engaging in violence compared to individuals without mental illness or substance abuse disorders is 26 times higher. That is why it is important for individuals to get screened and treated for any of these problems as soon as possible.

In jails and in our communities, we see mentally ill and substance abusing individuals at their worst: they are sick, need help, and they may be a threat to themselves or others, especially the children in their lives.

To protect children, to make our state healthier and safer, **we ask that you support current legislative proposals that will utilize federal funds to increase the health coverage of our low-income, uninsured citizens through Medicaid.**

Sincerely,



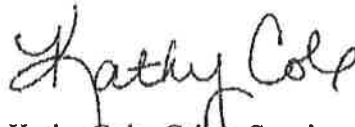
Wayne Kangas, Sheriff  
Clinton County  
State Co-Chair, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids



Brian Mackie, Prosecutor  
Washtenaw County  
State Co-Chair, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids



Catherine Garcia-Lindstrom, Dir. of Public Safety  
Walker Police Department  
State Co-Chair, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids



Kathy Cole, Crime Survivor  
State Co-Chair, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids



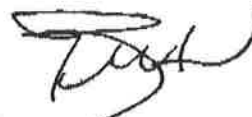
Matt Lori, State Representative  
59<sup>th</sup> House District  
Retired St. Joseph County Sheriff



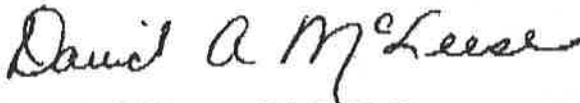
Rachel A. Sadowski, Chief of Police  
Hopkins Police Dept.



Peter A. Wallin, Sheriff  
Emmet County



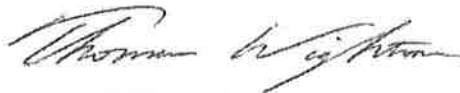
Brian Hill, Chief of Police  
Gerrish Twp. Police Dept.



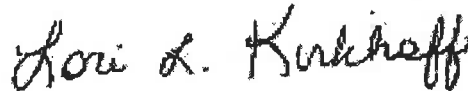
David A. McLeese, Chief of Police  
Decatur Police Dept.



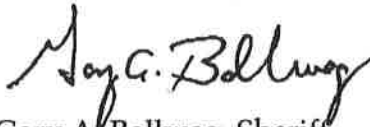
Andrea Krause, Prosecutor  
Montcalm County



Thomas Wightman, Chief of Police  
Brighton Police Dept.



Lori L. Kirkhoff, Chief Asst. Prosecutor  
Ionia County



Gary A. Ballweg, Sheriff  
Delta County



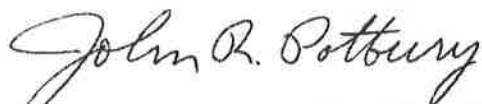
Mark Wilk, Chief of Police  
St. Ignace Police Dept.



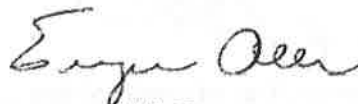
Jessca Beels, Chief of Police  
Memphis Police Dept.



W. Don Schneider, Sheriff  
Charlevoix County



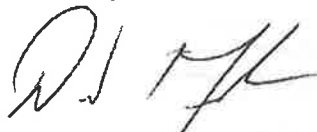
John R. Potbury, Special Asst. Prosecutor  
Genesee County



Eugene Alli, Deputy  
St. Joseph Cty. Sheriff's Dept. - Homeland  
Security



Frank Williams Jr., Chief of Police  
Cassopolis Police Dept.



David Faber, Chief of Police  
Utica Police Dept.



Ford K. Stone, Prosecutor  
Manistee County




Eric Hawkins, Chief of Police  
Southfield Police Dept.



Keith J. Kushion, Prosecutor  
Gratiot County



Fred Posavetz, Chief of Police  
Clinton Twp. Police Dept.



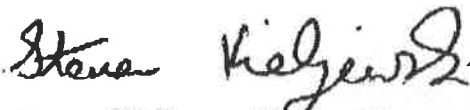
Scott D. Sutter, Chief of Police  
Linden Police Dept.



Tom Atkinson, Director of Public Safety  
Dowagiac Police Dept.



Melissa Powell, Prosecutor  
Iron County



Steven Kieliszewski, Sheriff  
Alpena County



Dennis S. Halverson, Safe School Coordinator  
Charlevoix-Emmet ISD



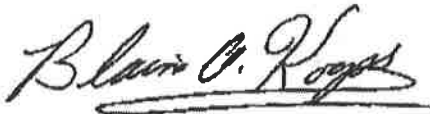
Dale R. Gribler, Sheriff  
Van Buren County



Sam L. Davis, Major, Jail Administrator  
Ingham Cty. Sheriff's Office



Stuart J. Dunning, Prosecutor  
Ingham County



Blaine A. Koops, Sheriff  
Allegan County



Kim C. Cole, Sheriff  
Mason County



Michael Reese, Chief of Police  
Sterling Hts. Police Dept.



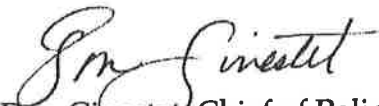
Chuck Heit, Undersheriff  
Berrien County



Daniel S. Bean, Sheriff  
Antrim County



Jody Hartley, Undersheriff  
Mason County



Don Ginestet, Chief of Police  
Riverview Police Dept.



Pete Matonich, Sheriff  
Gogebic County



Paul R. Spaniola, Prosecutor  
Mason County



Todd A. Taylor Sr., Chief of Police  
Chikaming Twp. Police Dept.



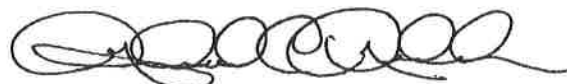
Timothy J. Rutkowski, Prosecutor  
Huron County



Garry M. Biniecki, Sheriff  
Sanilac County



Richard Steiger, Prosecutor  
Presque Isle County



Michel C. Madden, Chief of Police  
St. Johns Police Dept.

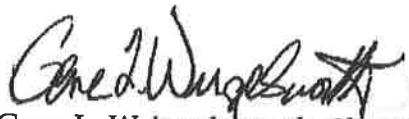
July 31, 2013  
Page 6



Dan Branson, Chief of Police  
Harbor Springs Police Dept.



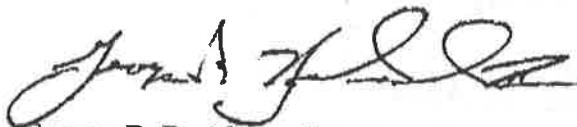
Kirk A. Wakefield, Sheriff  
Crawford County



Gene L. Wriggelsworth, Sheriff  
Ingham County .



Martin J. Underhill, Chief of Police  
Grand Ledge Police Dept.



George R. Braidwood II, Sheriff  
Shiawassee County



Leland Teschendorf, Sheriff  
Tuscola County

cc: Senators Hildenbrand, Meekhof, Whitmer, and Hunter